

# SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE EXAM AND SOME RESPONSES

TOO MUCH READING – CLASS TOO DIFFICULT.

1. HOW MUCH READING IS ENOUGH?  
WITH LESS READING, IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO MAKE SENSE OF MATERIAL.
2. THIS IS A COLLEGE LEVEL COURSE.  
WHY SHOULD A 100-LEVEL CLASS NOT BE DIFFICULT?

THE TEST DOES NOT REFLECT MATERIAL DEALT WITH IN LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS.

1. 70% OF THE TEST WAS CONCEPTUAL;  
ONLY 30% WAS SHORT ANSWER.
2. WITHOUT SOME FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE, YOU WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.
3. THE “LARGER ISSUES” REALLY CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE DETAILS. E.G.: TAKE THE QUESTION OF KINGSHIP vs. FREEDOM.

LECTURES ARE SOMETIMES CONFUSING  
CONNECTIONS NOT MADE  
BETWEEN PASSAGES & THEMES.

1. FAIR CRITICISM . . . BUT:
2. **YOU** HAVE TO ASK QUESTIONS WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
3. **YOU** NEED TO MAKE CONNECTIONS.

TOO MUCH TIME SPENT ON QUIZZES.

1. FAIR CRITICISM . . . BUT:
2. IF QUIZZES WERE GIVEN, SAY, EVERY OTHER WEEK, HOW WOULD YOU STUDY FOR EXAMS?
3. BUT MAYBE THE TAS & I CAN COME UP WITH SOME PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS.

NOW, ON TO TODAY'S (TRUNCATED) LECTURE:

WHAT IS  
THE NEW COVENANT?

## ACCORDING TO JEREMIAH:

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. (31:31-34)

## ACCORDING TO EZEKIEL:

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. **A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.** I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. (36:24-27)

EZEKIEL DOES NOT TALK ABOUT A COVENANT, BUT BOTH USE A SIMILAR CRUCIAL METAPHOR TO EXPRESS A RENEWED RELATION TO G\*OD.

WHAT IS THE BASIS OF THE METAPHOR?  
HOW IS THE **VEHICLE** USED DIFFERENTLY?  
I.E.: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE **TENOR**?

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES?

HOW ARE DIFFERENCES BE RELATED TO THE  
LIFE EXPERIENCE OF EACH PROPHET?

JEREMIAH DURING JERUSALEM'S LAST DAYS;  
EZEKIEL IN EXILE IN BABYLON.

JEREMIAH'S TORTUROUS COMPULSION;  
EZEKIEL'S BIZARRE VISIONS.

JEREMIAH'S DOUBLE BIND:

O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.  
For whenever I speak, I must cry out,  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
If I say, "I will not mention him,  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot. (20:7-9)

## ONE OF EZEKIEL'S ALLEGORICAL VISIONS

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"

I answered, "O LORD God, you know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD God to these bones: I will cause breath\* to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath\* in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath\*: 'Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath,\* and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.'"

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath\* came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: ‘I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit\* within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’”  
(37:1-14)

\* Hebrew *nshamah* means ‘breath-spirit-wind.’

What is an ALLEGORY?

What is the VEHICLE of the allegory above?

What is the TENOR?